

March 15, 2007

Submarine Force Announces Ice Exercise 2007 Participants

NORFOLK, Va.— Commander Submarine Force announces the participation of the USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757), home ported in Groton, Conn., in a joint U.S. Navy / Royal Navy exercise being conducted in the Arctic Ocean in March and April 2007. The Ice Exercise 2007 (ICEX-2007) will be directed by Capt Ed Hasell, Officer in Charge of the U.S. Navy's Arctic Submarine Laboratory in San Diego, Calif.

Two submarines, the USS ALEXANDRIA and a Royal Navy Trafalgar class submarine will conduct the joint classified testing on submarine operability and war fighting capabilities in Arctic waters. The ALEXANDRIA, commanded by CDR Mike Bernacchi, will participate in ICEX-2007, under the operational control of CTF-82 in Norfolk Va.

The exercise will be supported by the Applied Physics Laboratory Ice Station (APLIS) built on the Arctic Ocean sea ice north of Deadhorse (Prudhoe Bay), Alaska from which the

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ICEX:

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exercise will be coordinated with Range Safety Officers monitoring movement of and communication with the two submarines.

The camp consists of a small village, constructed and operated especially for the ICEX by the Applied Physics Laboratory of the University of Washington. Following the completion of the ICEX operations, the Navy will share the camp for civilian scientific research as part of the International Polar Year.

The U.S. Submarine Force conducts exercises in waters around the globe, including the Arctic, in order to guarantee assured access to any ocean in the world. The Submarine Force continues to use the Arctic Ocean as an alternate route for shifting submarines between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In fact, submarines can reach the western Pacific directly by transiting through international waters of the Arctic rather than through the Panama Canal. U.S. submarines must continue to train in the Arctic environment to refine and validate procedures and required equipment in support of operational safety.

The U.S. Navy and Royal Navy Arctic cooperation represents an excellent example of the shared vision and resources the two navies enjoy. Since 1986, every Arctic tactical exercise has involved both U.S. Navy and Royal Navy submarines.

For more information on Navy submarines, weapons systems and Sailors, visit the Submarine Force web site at: www.sublant.navy.mil."

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